

THE LIGHT SIDE OF WAR

HOW SOLDIERS AMUSE THEMSELVES ON THE FIRING LINE.

New Developments in Regard to the Superior Preparation of the Boers. Mistakes About Boer Intelligence and Character.

[Special Correspondence.]

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 15.—Horrible as war is it has its lighter side. Chronic seriousness may be a characteristic of the Boers, but the British soldier must occasionally have a little fun, even while under fire. One of the veteran regiments before Ladysmith is said to have had no end of amusement drawing the fire of Boer sharpshooters. The old trick of exposing a helmet on the end of a carbine brought forth a shower of bullets whenever repeated during a whole day, and when the enemy discovered the trick it was successfully worked again by use of a straw man.



DRAWING THE ENEMY'S FIRE.

The Boers fired religiously at the decoy, and spies subsequently reported that the sturdy marksmen were much elated over the number of British supposed to have been killed.

Notwithstanding the superior marksmanship of the Boers, it is a notable fact that the shells from their artillery have not been startlingly effective. This is explained by knowing one in a peculiar way. It is said that large quantities of shells purchased on the European continent were filled with charcoal instead of explosives. There is no positive evidence of this, but the statement is given as one of the curiosities of the war. It seems to be a fact, however, that the wounds of the British are mostly made by rifle bullets, while the wounds of the Boers are caused by exploding shells.

A feature of the war is the utter failure of the armored train. Aside from the fact that the track may easily be torn up, either before the train as it advances or behind it when it endeavors to return, the cars are unable to withstand any kind of artillery fire. Even shells filled with charcoal are sufficiently forceful to shatter the frail boxes, and it is easy to break the wheels and cripple the motive power.

The cordial feeling of British regulars toward colonials is a feature of the situation. Perhaps the mother country can afford to foot the bills for the war for the sake of realizing the feeling of unity throughout the empire upon which the sun never sets.

A significant incident is reported in one of the latest Cape Town papers. It occurred when the town was "clean mad with excitement" over the advent of the Canadian contingent.

A bluejacket brushed up against two Australian and Canadian troopers. As he passed he patted them gently and lovingly on the shoulder.

"Good boys!" he said, with an indescribably benignant smile. "Good boys! You're all right. You're the best sort. Good luck to you."

If this feeling had existed before 1776, who knows but that American soldiers would now be fighting beside British regulars in South Africa?

The electric balloon is proving a success in night signaling. The balloons have a number of electric lamps and are connected by wire with an apparatus below. These lamps are flashed at intervals corresponding to the dots and dashes of the Morse code and on a clear night can be seen 100 miles. The usual military ciphers may be used, so that the enemy cannot read the signals. The chance of balloons being hit by sharpshooters is small, as they are sent up at night, usually at a distance from the army, and are quickly out of range.

Coming to light about the Boers. It is reported that they began the war with 100,000 rifles and ammunition. Some of the rifles are of the very latest Maxim type. 10 Hotchkiss guns and 300 machine guns. They are also reported to have 300 machine guns. They are also reported to have 300 machine guns. They are also reported to have 300 machine guns.

possess fourteen 6 inch Creusot guns, five Nordenfeldts taken in the raid, ten German 5 inch Krupps, ten 7 pounder English guns, eight 12 pounder English guns, twenty 72 millimeter Krupps and six 90 pounder German guns.

The British and the rest of the world are also learning that they have made a mistake in their estimate of Boer intelligence and Boer character. The average Boer private knows as much about England and the English as the average British line officer knows about the Boers. It seems to have been a part of the Boer programme to show ignorance for the past 20 years, and they have deceived the world.

CECIL HOYT.

"I think I would go crazy with pain were it not for Chamberlain's Pain Balm," writes Mr. W. H. Stapleton, Herminie, Pa. "I have been afflicted with rheumatism for several years and have tried remedies without number, but Pain Balm is the best medicine I ever got hold of." One application relieves the pain. For sale by B. R. Wilson & Son.

GOWNS AND PARASOLS.

What Fashion Is Preparing For American Women.

[Special Correspondence.]

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—If there was ever a prettier tea gown made than the one shown in this illustration, I have never seen it. It does not look overdone in any place, but nevertheless it is quite elaborate. The material is silver gray cachemire de l'Inde. The skirt is trimmed in a way to represent an overdress. Across the foot are three lines of narrow satin ribbon in the same shade of gray. The dress is cut in princess form, with a Watteau plait in the back, hanging from the yoke. This yoke is made of crimson satin and overlaid with large applique. This is edged with a three inch ruffle of



CASHMERE TEA GOWN.

white plat Val lace, and this is again edged with a tiny ruffling of chiffon. Between the two kinds of lace there is a line of satin ribbon. There is a double jabot of plat Val, edged with the chiffon down the waist and all around the demitrain edged with the narrow ruche and headed by the rich lace. There is a belt of crimson satin, with a design of the lace picked out upon it. On the yoke is a crushed bow of crimson satin, with long ends of gray ribbon, edged with a deep knotted fringe. The sleeves are trimmed in the same way.

All one day I sat in stores and looked at summer things, particularly the parasols now in course of construction for next summer. Some samples are ready, and so I will tell what they look like. The general plan seems to be to have small tops and rather longer handles than have been, though there are some exceptions. Taffeta and surah are the favorite materials, and lace and very narrow velvet and silk ribbon are used to trim them. One style had the parasol of delicate shell pink, with an applique of renaissance lace in points. This was arranged like a six pointed star, the whole upper part being covered with the lace, while the points fell one inch below the silk between the ribs. Another one was of white surah with black polka dots. The upper part was plain, but there were four ruffles of the surah set so close together that they formed a ruff instead of ruffles. A pale green taffeta, shot with white, had a complete covering of vermilion pattern done in russet red striped ribbon half an inch wide. There was one headed ruffle, and this was covered in the same way. The handle was of jade, mounted in gold. There are plaid taffetas and a few bayadere stripes. These are always made with a plain edge, and if anything about them is ornamental it is the handle. Some of the handles are really works of art.

One parasol may be seen at \$10 is of pinkhead cloth, covered with a sort of wavy black and white stripe overlaid with a black and white check. On the handle is a pretty silk tassel. The handle is of a different material. The handle is of a different material. The handle is of a different material.

is tied at the handle. The handle is enameled and has a regular Watteau painting of shepherdesses upon it, with their crooks and sheep and adoring swains. A novel idea is seen in a tan colored taffeta. There are eight ribs to each parasol this season. Each of these ribs is cut to a deep point, with a scallop between. Three rows of very narrow sealskin colored velvet are sewed around all the points and scallops, and where the points and scallops meet the lines of velvet cross and the ends are sewed down. The handle is a piece of natural wood, with a chased gold band and a small bow of tan and seal satin ribbon above. All these roll so closely that it is hard to imagine them more than canes. A new wrinkle to some of them is a smoothed bit of rustic wood about three inches long, fastened by a ribbon run through a hole in it. The ribbon is also fastened to the parasol and hangs four or five inches. The object of this is to allow a lady to slip this bit of wood between her fingers into the palm of her hand, and that allows her to carry her purse and leaves the parasol to dangle loosely at her side when not in use. This saves other folks' eyes and tempers and is withal a pretty fancy.

While speaking of accessories I will mention the new cinch belt. This is larger at the back than in front. It finishes with two rings, and through these is run a ribbon, and when one wants to wear one the ribbon is run through the rings and the belt pulled together so. The corsets are arranged so now that there is for the first time room enough to eat a good dinner without getting red in the face. All the pulling is from the back, and the whole front is somehow made more comfortable and roomy. While the waist line is smaller than ever. OLIVE HARPER.

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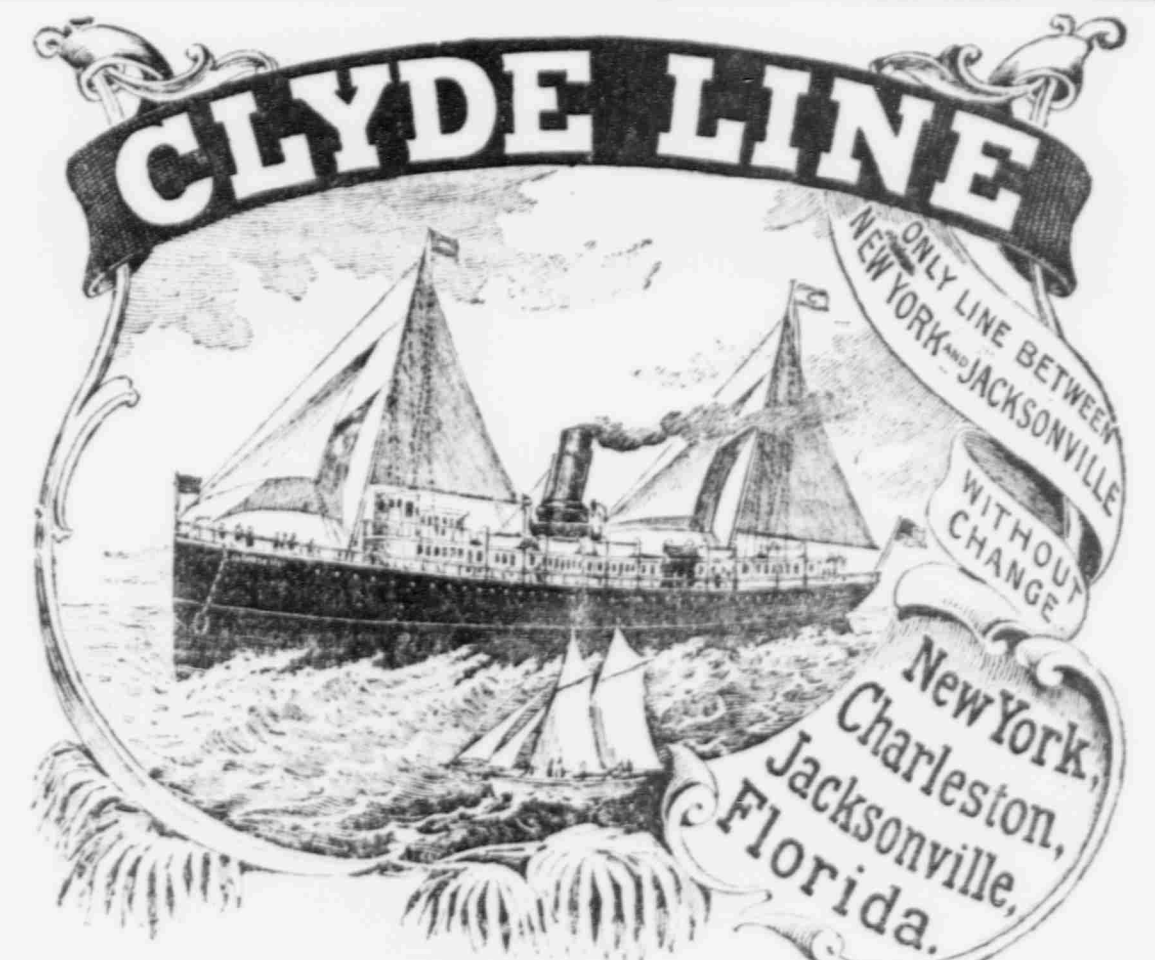
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